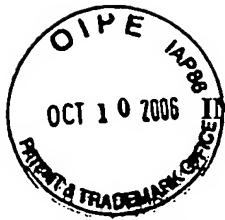


*EPA*



OCT 10 2006 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yi  
Serial No.: 10/602,522  
Filed: 06/24/2003  
For: Lifting Tool for Surgical Retractors  
Art Unit: 3733  
Examiner: Comstock

*Entry recommended  
10/19/06  
SL*

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This communication is in response to a final office action with mail date of Aug. 11, 2006, in which the Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8, 12 and 13 under Section 102(b) as anticipated by Chaux '552, has rejected claims 7 and 11 under Section 103(a) as obvious over Koros et al. '382, and has rejected claim 15 under Section 103(a) as obvious over Koros et al. '382 in view of Gauthier '093.

*Initials approved  
10/5/2006*

The Examiner indicates that claims 9, 10 and 14 are allowable if properly rewritten.

The Examiner indicates that claim 16 is allowed.

Please amend the application as follows:

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The undersigned certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below.

Date

10/5/06

Thomas C. Saitta